

WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

QUALITY OF LIFE RESULT:

Wyoming natural resources are managed to maximize the economic, environmental and social prosperity of current and future generations.

AGENCY:

Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC)

CONTRIBUTION TO WYOMING QUALITY OF LIFE:

The agency contributes to the quality of life by addressing the water resources needs of our citizens through the rehabilitation and construction of existing and new water supply projects.

BASIC FACTS

The agency has twenty-four (24) full time employees and ten (10) commission members. The office operates with a FY2005/2006 biennial budget of \$6,870,404, as a budget item within Water Development Account I (Note: The agency does not receive any financial assistance from the General Fund). Total program expenditures, including projects and administration, average approximately \$30,000,000 annually.

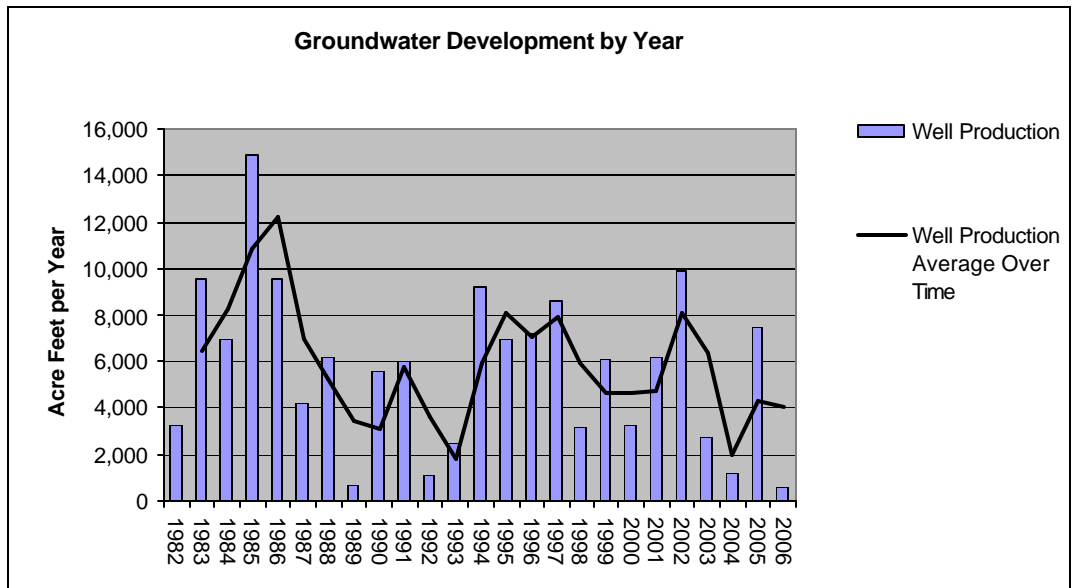
Five primary programs of our agency are:

- New Development – Provides planning services and construction funds for water supply and storage facilities such as dams, diversion structures, groundwater wells and transmission pipelines. Also included is the River Basin Planning Process which prepares current water resource information for planning Wyoming's future.
- Rehabilitation – Repairs/rehabilitates existing water projects that have been in place for at least fifteen (15) years.
- Water Investment Management – Administration of the state's investment in Buffalo Bill Dam, Fontenelle Reservoir, High Savery Dam and Palisades Reservoir. In addition, outstanding project loans are collected and water sales are monitored.
- Instream Flow – Generates feasibility reports for all permit applications and reviews requests to determine impacts on future water development opportunities.
- Special Assignments – Assignments from the Governor to undertake special projects, i.e., the representation of Wyoming in a cooperative multi-state/United States Department of Interior effort for the implementation of endangered species recover programs in the Platte River Basin.

Together, these programs serve over 258 municipalities, counties and special districts. This benefits the entire population as well as all visitors to the state by both providing/maintaining adequate water supplies and planning for future needs.

PERFORMANCE

As stated in our strategic plan, we value timeliness, access to current planning data, professionalism, and the volume of water developed as best measures of our agencies performance. We consistently complete projects within the timeframes dictated by the legislature; our Planning Process has resulted in completion of the final basin plan in the State’s River Basin Planning Process; and, we maintain a high level of professionalism, as demonstrated by our relationship with the public and the legislature. Our indicator of the volume of water developed continues to increase, with additional groundwater and surface water supplies being placed into service in the past year (see graph below).



STORY BEHIND THE PERFORMANCE

Wyoming is currently experiencing the drought of record, and that has created an unprecedented demand for water resources related projects. Our agency continues to experience significant demands on our resources, and, to date, we have been able to meet those demands, both from manpower and funding availability standpoints. However, if the drought continues our water development accounts may not be able to keep pace with demand. Further, if the numbers of project applications does not slow we will undoubtedly require additional staffing and funding resources to meet the needs of our citizens.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

We have established and staffed our Dam and Reservoir Section, as authorized by the 2005 Legislature. This section includes four full time employees whose primary purpose is to optimize opportunities to build dam and reservoir projects. This section has begun to update new hydrologic information, as impacted by the drought, and is establishing methods to promote construction of new storage projects.

Over the past few biennia our workload has increased four fold. Our new section will help with the resultant staffing issues, and we will remain diligent in maintaining professional staff to perform our mandated functions.

Demand for projects in the coming year may exceed records set in the past few years. If this materializes we will be short of funding to meet these needs. The legislature may be requested to provide additional funding to the water development accounts, which would be a wise use of the budget surplus the state is currently enjoying.

NO SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST